



2024 CHAPTER 1

Authorisation for the year ending 31 March 2024

Use of resources

1.—(1) For the purposes of section 6(1) of the 2001 Act, this section and section 2 authorise the use of resources in the year ending 31 March 2024.

(2) In that year, the use of resources by the persons mentioned in subsection (3) is authorised up to the amount of £28,817,828,000.

(3) The persons are—

- (a) the Northern Ireland departments;
- (b) the Food Standards Agency;
- (c) the Northern Ireland Assembly Commission;
- (d) the Northern Ireland Audit Office;
- (e) the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation;
- (f) the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman;
- (g) the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland.

(4) Of the amount authorised by subsection (2)—

- (a) £26,071,663,000 is authorised for use for current purposes, and
- (b) £2,746,165,000 is authorised for use for capital purposes.

Limits on use of resources

2.—(1) Schedule 1 contains estimates relating to the persons mentioned in section 1(3) for the year ending 31 March 2024 (“Schedule 1 estimates”).

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.

(2) In the year ending 31 March 2024, a person mentioned in section 1(3) may use resources in accordance with subsections (3) to (7) and the Schedule 1 estimate relating to that person.

(3) The person may use resources specified in column 2 of Part 1 of the estimate for the purposes specified in Part 2 of the estimate; but this is subject to subsections (4) to (7).

(4) Where Part 1 of the estimate authorises the use of net resources for current purposes, the person—

- (a) may use resources up to the amount so authorised for current purposes;
- (b) must not use those resources for capital purposes.

(5) Where Part 1 of the estimate authorises the use of net resources for capital purposes, the person—

- (a) may use resources up to the amount so authorised for capital purposes;
- (b) must not use those resources for current purposes.

(6) Where Part 1 of the estimate authorises the use of net resources in relation to a category of expenditure, the person—

- (a) may use resources up to the amount so authorised for a purpose identified in the estimate as falling within that category of expenditure;
- (b) must not use those resources for any other purpose.

(7) The categories of expenditure are—

- (a) expenditure subject to a departmental expenditure limit;
- (b) annually managed expenditure;
- (c) non-budget expenditure.

(8) The authorisations in this section and in section 1 supersede those made by sections 1 and 2 of the Northern Ireland Budget (No.2) Act 2023, which total £27,403,514,000.

In relation to any amount of resource specified in column 2 of Part 1 of a Schedule 1 estimate, any increase or decrease by virtue of this section in the amount authorised is given in column 3 of that Part.

Issue of sum out of the Consolidated Fund

3. The Department may issue out of the Consolidated Fund and apply to the service of the year ending 31 March 2024 the sum of £23,937,688,000.

Use of sum issued out of the Consolidated Fund

4.—(1) The sum that the Department may issue out of the Consolidated Fund under section 3 may be used for the year ending 31 March 2024 in accordance with subsection (2).

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(2) The sum specified in Part 1 of a Schedule 1 estimate as a money requirement may be used by the person to whom the estimate relates for the purposes specified in Part 2 of the estimate.

(3) The authorisations in this section and in section 3 supersede those made by sections 3 and 4 of the Northern Ireland Budget (No.2) Act 2023, which total £22,790,893,000.

Power to borrow

5.—(1) The Department may borrow on the credit of the sum specified in section 3 any sum or sums not exceeding in total £11,968,844,000.

(2) Any money so borrowed is to be repaid along with any interest due on it out of the Consolidated Fund not later than 31 March 2024.

(3) Section 5 of the Northern Ireland Budget (No.2) Act 2023 (power to borrow) is omitted.

(4) Any money borrowed under that section and outstanding on the day on which this section comes into operation is to be treated as having been borrowed under this section.

Use of income

6.—(1) In the year ending 31 March 2024, a person mentioned in section 1(3) may use income from a source specified in Part 3 of the Schedule 1 estimate relating to that person for a purpose specified in Part 2 of the estimate; but this is subject to subsections (2) to (5).

(2) Where the income is received in connection with current purposes, the person—

- (a) may use the income for current purposes;
- (b) must not use the income for capital purposes.

(3) Where the income is received in connection with capital purposes, the person—

- (a) may use the income for capital purposes;
- (b) must not use the income for current purposes.

(4) Where the source of income is identified in the estimate as relating to a category of expenditure, the person—

- (a) may use income from that source for a purpose identified in the estimate as falling within that category;
- (b) must not use income from that source for any other purpose.

(5) The categories of expenditure are the categories set out in section 2(7).

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.

(6) Where, in the year ending 31 March 2024, money is received by a person mentioned in section 1(3)—

(a) the money may be used in accordance with this section or with any other statutory provision that provides for the person to deal with income in a particular manner, and

(b) in so far as not so used, it must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

(7) The authorisations in this section supersede those made by section 6 of the Northern Ireland Budget (No.2) Act 2023.